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Renewal

IN THE INNER CITY

Chicago City Missionary Society

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"Chicago—the City of Contrasts"

Even Father Marquette, missionary to the Illinois, knew it as a place of extremes, where the winter's tides made the river water "good or bad"; where the deer were plentiful, yet too lean to be eaten; and where the changing climate of lake and prairie met in the intermittent thaws of early spring.

To the architect Louis Sullivan it was "the City of Contrasts . . . where the Great Lake and the Prairie, emblems of pride, fertility, power and graciousness encircle and enfold the city as a wistful mother holds a subnormal child." And to Nelson Algren it is a "Jekyll-and-Hyde sort of burg, the city that forever keeps two faces, one for winners and one for losers . . . One for the open-eyed children of the thousand-windowed office buildings, and one for the shuttered hours." "Not if I had a hundred tongues, every one shouting a different language in a different key, could I do justice to her splendid chaos," an English journalist wrote of Chicago 70 years ago. "Where in all the world," he asked, "can words be found for this miracle of paradox and incongruity?"

Its Most Familiar Landmark

Any city, whatever its site, is a composition of contrast and paradox, a bringing together of the assorted extremes of the human scale within the common confines of a single place. In many cities a sense of paradox becomes lost in the amorphous quality of the whole; in Chicago, contrast becomes its most familiar landmark. To know Chicago is to know its several faces; but more, it is to know something of the interplay of its contrasting elements in the uneasy, yet prevailing province that lies between its varied contrasts.

"To know Chicago is to know its several faces."

To know Chicago is to know something of the city that is neither one nor the other, but that lies somewhere between the myth and reputation of Chicago and what is called the reality of Chicago; between its poetry and novels and sociological dissertations, and that which can never be articulated; between the Chicago of Iowa schoolboys and the Chicago of children playing in Franklin Park. It is to know something of the city that is neither inner city nor outer city, but that lies as aspects of both, with its inner self interwoven in the artifact of its outer garments. And it is to know something of the city where is brought equally evident conformity of the "cultural and economic center of midland United States."

City, Lake And Prairie

It is the city built at the lakeside, a port to the lakes and an outer continent; and it is the city grown up on the prairies, a parochial place preoccupied with what visitors say and think. But more than these, it is a city come into being at the meeting place of the prairie and the lake, of midwestern small towns and the wider world, of the New World and the Old, and of rural communities and ways of life and the styles of a metropolitan order. It is neither one nor the other, but it is the intermingling of anonymity and neighborliness, or of inheritances brought to the city from out of a rural past and the elements of an industrial city.

Renewal And Defeat

It is the city with mottoed phrases like "I Will" or "Make no little plans," and whose self-reflections have included its vigour, its material strength and prowess, and its continuing youth. Yet it is also the city where apathy and despair, where expression of "I won't" or "I can't", also take places against Chicago's subscribed vitality. But even here it is the city that lies between the elements of renewal and the elements of defeat that reveals the more real community, and that gives to Chicago the

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CCMS Members Will Meet to Hear About Society's New Programs

Three Chicago area meetings have been scheduled for the corporate members of the Society this month. Invitations have been sent to about 2,400 members and 300 ministers in the Chicago area.

Meeting dates and locations are: *North*—Sunday, October 15, First Congregational Church of Evanston, 1417 Hinman ave.; *West*—Sunday, October 22, First Congregational Church of Oak Park, 848 Lake st.; *South*—Sunday, October 29, Bryn Mawr Community Church, 7000 S. Jeffrey ave., Chicago.

Please note that the meeting at Bryn Mawr Community Church has been changed to October 29 instead of November 12 as announced in the September *Renewal*.

Each of the meetings is scheduled for 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. After an hour's program, refreshments will be served during a brief social hour.

CCMS members may attend the meeting most convenient for them.

The Rev. Donald L. Benedict said in his letter to the CCMS members, "We have some very important considerations which I should like to discuss with you. We are contemplating an enlarged Development Committee as well as the organization of a Woman's Auxiliary. We need your thinking and your interests as we move deeper into the inner city areas of Chicago."

Corporate members of the Society include two groups, (1) life members who are nominated by contributing churches and elected at the annual meeting, and (2) annual members who have voting privileges in the year of their contribution.

RENEWAL

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Institute Designed as Bridge Between New Residents and the Community

For the last five years, the Society's Casa Central has been in the vanguard as the Protestant agency ministering to the Spanish-speaking community of Chicago. It has been the strong and friendly hand of the Church reaching out in its concern for the many newcomers from the countries "South of the Border" who are reaching our city and trying to make it their home.

Its program has been an ambitious and varied one, and has earned the respect and loyalty of thousands of individuals and many public and private institutions in our city. In the course of this year alone, visitors from every Latin-American country have come to see and learn about its work.

In an effort to be a bridge between the new resident and the community, Casa Central has focused most of its effort on services and education of the newcomers.

New Cultures Require Understanding

However, it is quite clear to us that as people from different cultures come to live together, the complexities of their problems can only be reduced and overcome by mutual understanding of each other's cultural values, and ways of life. This must be a two-way avenue, where an exchange that enriches the newcomer as well as the established community takes place. This is not accomplished by eradicating the mores and traditions of a group, with the hope of supplanting them with new ones which they do not understand; but rather, by reinforcing those cultural values which are commendable and beautiful; those showing our understanding and appreciation for them, and then, enriching them with new ones of equal and higher value.

To promote this better and more intelligent understanding of our new neighbors' culture, Casa Central has instituted as one of its programs a Pan-American Cultural Institute. In the Institute, people from the various social strata can meet on a common level to learn about each other, to share mutual interest and talents, and to experiment at the grass roots level with the ways and means that our country can use to approach our hemispheric neighbors on a more successful basis than in the past.

An Invitation to Participate

Here is an invitation to the people of Chicago — professionals, white-collar workers, skilled and semi-skilled laborers, the common man, of any race and faith—to come and join in a highly gratifying program to understand better other people's culture and point of view; their language, their art and music, their cuisine and also to share with them in their joys and pain as they search for a better life in a world where peace is so greatly in danger.

Cultural Programs are Open to All

Make plans to join the Kings' Day Festival this winter; if you want to learn the beautiful Spanish language, join one of the conversational Spanish classes starting October 2 and running for ten weeks; come to one of the Spanish dinner parties, or attend a Spanish movie.

Call Casa Central to Enroll

If you are interested in participating in any of the functions of the Cultural Institute, contact Casa Central for further information about these programs. The telephone number is CH 3-4742.

—Rafael V. Martinez

Chicago . . .

(Continued from page 1)

recognition of being "the city of all cities most like Man himself."

"A city," wrote Sullivan, "is but a screen; and behind that screen are the men, women and children who will it, who suffer it to be, whose thought it is. It is their image, their materialization." And Chicago, more than a city of contrasts or a place of extremes, but lying at the boundary that traces itself between the lake and the land, the metropolis and the countryside, the new and the old, and between renewal and defeat, hope and despair, would also be a reflection, a mirroring, of any of its members and citizens. Beyond the screen of Chicago and all of its assorted paradoxes, and certainly beyond its facade, the Church might find the proper arena of its responsibilities, knowing the boundary provinces of the city to be those of any person.

Mothers and children rest in the Outdoor Chapel following last year's tour of Pleasant Valley Farm.

Visitors Will Tour Pleasant Valley

Colorful fall foliage will provide the setting for the annual Open House at Pleasant Valley Farm on Thursday, October 19. Announcements of the tour have been sent to many churches and church groups, but the tour is open to all interested persons.

"Visitors should arrive at the farm buildings at 10:30 a.m.," said Mr. Gunnar A. Peterson, director of Outdoor Education. "Mr. Hubert Schultz will show us the farm buildings, gardens, crops, and animals. At noon a hot lunch will be served in the dining room of Hilltop Camp. Cost of the lunch is $1.00 for adults and 50 cents for children. Call the Society's office to make reservations."

Guests Will See Camp Locations

Mr. Peterson will conduct a walking tour of the major camp buildings and grounds, ending with a short meeting in the Outdoor Chapel at 2:00 p.m. Departure is set for 2:30 p.m.

Pre-school children are welcome. Visitors are advised to wear warm clothing and walking shoes. Camera fans will be able to get scenic views and closeups of the farm animals.

PVF is 4 Miles West of Crystal Lake

Guests may take appropriate highways or tollways to Crystal Lake, then drive west on Highway 176 from Crystal Lake to its intersection with Highway 47. A few rods north of the intersection, turn west and drive about one mile on Pleasant Valley Road to the farm.

Rents Office Space for Lawndale Community Services—New Program Will Help Churches and Lay People Give Greater Service in Area

The Chicago City Missionary Society has leased office space for the Lawndale Community Services at 1308 S. Pulaski rd. The office was opened October 1, and is well situated for accessibility to churches in the north Lawndale area. Included in the new quarters is a conference room for training sessions for lay volunteer leaders who will be working in the various churches.

The Lawndale Unit of the Commission on Youth Welfare staff, especially Mr. Clarence Cash, has given effective encouragement to the organization of a local group of ministers in the interest of youth welfare. This group of ministers, called the "Lawndale Interdenominational Help Youth Mission Council," has enthusiastically accepted the challenge by CCMS Director, Don Benedict, at one of their recent meetings. Mr. Benedict's challenge to them was "the CCMS is initiating the Lawndale Community Services in response to the North Lawndale ministers' declaration that they wanted to engage in increased community service and that they would support LCS efforts to work with lay people ready to do youth and community service in their churches."

Council Advises on Services

The steering committee of the Help Youth Mission Council is now serving in an advisory capacity to the establishment of the Lawndale Community Services. Officers of the Council, representing 40 churches and its steering committee, are the Rev. C. W. Jones, chairman; the Rev. Leon Davis, vice chairman; the Rev. V. B. Watts, secretary; the Rev. C. S. Hampton, treasurer; and the Rev. W. M. Johnson, publicity.

Churches Cooperate with LCS

The most encouraging development has been the response of the following ministers and churches who expect to have groups of lay men and women, ready to receive training in October—the Rev. J. W. Donohue, pastor of Brotherly Love Baptist Church; the Rev. Clarence Lennon, pastor of Lawndale United Presbyterian Church; the Rev. B. T. Little, pastor of Open Door Baptist Church; and the Rev. Ernest Pettigrew, pastor of Lena Hamlett C.M.E. Church.

Interviews with a number of other pastors, and the response to a questionnaire circulated among the churches, indicate that others are ready to recruit similar groups of lay workers.

City Agencies Aid Program

The work of the Lawndale Community Services is with the larger community as well as with lay leaders in individual churches. Religious leaders from both North and South Lawndale work together to reduce the racial tension between the two communities. In this effort we have cooperated with a number of other agencies, including the Department of Social Welfare of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago; the Mayor's Commissions on Human Relations and Youth Welfare; the Catholic Interracial Council; the Police Department's Human Relations Unit, Youth Bureau, and other departments; the Chicago Rabbinical Board; and the representatives of the Chicago Board of Education. The result has been meetings of representative Protestant and Roman Catholic clergymen from North and South Lawndale to exchange information about community problems, to hear reports from city officials, and to see what actions clergymen can take collectively or individually to improve community attitudes.

—Louis D. Mitchell

It's a full house at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Benedict when internes and new CCMS workers and wives meet each Monday night.

THE SOCIETY'S PAGE

Mr. and Mrs. John Roberts arrive at the Benedict home for Monday night session.

Pleasant Valley Will Serve as Center For New Ministry to Chicago's Youth

Mr. John W. Roberts, Jr. joined the Society's staff this fall to enter into an intensive exploration of how an effective personal ministry to inner city teenagers can be developed. The focus of the program will be a person-to-person relationship with youth, backed up by close work with their families.

Recognizing that entrance into the working world is one of the major concerns and problems of teenagers, particularly in the inner city where opportunities are few, the program will include an employment training and placement program coupled with work experience at Pleasant Valley Farm. This part of the program is similar to the one the Society conducted for high school youth in the summers of 1959 and 1960.

Will Work With Inner City Churches

Mr. Roberts will work closely with the youth program of Casa Central, the Lawndale Community Services and other CCMS projects. Inner city churches may use the Youth Ministry as a resource service into which they can guide the young people who need and can benefit by the experience.

Pleasant Valley Farm will be a major resource and working center as Mr. Roberts seeks to develop personal relationships with the young people and also in the disciplines of living, working and spiritual life, and job training.

News Briefs

Attend CCMS 79th Annual Meeting!

Friends of the Society are planning to attend the CCMS 79th Annual Meeting at McCormick Place on Friday, December 8, at 6:00 P.M. There will be places for 10 people at each table. Tickets are $5.00 per person.

The Rev. Gibson Winter, Assistant Professor of Ethics at the University of Chicago's Divinity School, will deliver the main address.

The Rev. Mr. Winter, an ordained priest in the Protestant Episcopal Church, has had a distinguished career as curate, rector and chaplain in parishes in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan and the U. S. Naval Reserve; and assistant professor at CTS.

He is the author of two books—*Love and Conflict* (new patterns in family life), published in 1958, and *The Suburban Captivity of the Churches,* published this year.

CCMS Speakers are Available

Several members of the Society's staff are available for a limited number of speaking engagements to discuss the Society's programs.

They are the Rev. Donald L. Benedict, General Director; the Rev. John R. Schwenke, Associate General Director; Mr. Gunnar A. Peterson, Director of Outdoor Education; Mr. James A. Mason, Research Associate; Dr. Rafael V. Martinez, Director of Casa Central; the Rev. Louis D. Mitchell, Director of the new Lawndale Community Services, and the Rev. Helen Archibald, Christian Education.

Starts New Publication

Do you speak Spanish? *Renovacion,* the Casa Central's new publication in Spanish, may be obtained by interested Spanish readers. Magazines and books in the Spanish language for the center's library will be greatly appreciated. The international division of Reader's Digest has made substantial gifts of magazines and condensed books to the library in the last few years.

Mr. and Mrs. Shott Settle in Florida

Mr. Orman L. Shott, former CCMS director of business, wrote recently that he and Mrs. Shott will build a house in Pompano Beach, Fla. The Shotts, who started their retirement October 1, will live at the Terrace Plaza Apartments, 701 Briny ave., Pompano Beach, until their house is finished.

JASC Helps New Citizens

The Japanese American Service Committee recently held graduation exercises for its 18th Americanization class. Since the classes were started in 1952, more than 1,400 Japanese have studied in the classes for Americanization and have become citizens.

Reports Large Camp Enrollment

Gunnar Peterson has reported that 1,266 inner city youngsters were in CCMS camp programs the past summer. The camp enrollments were as follows: Pleasant Valley Farm — 490; Day Camps—560; Mothers' Camps and Family Camps—119; Bridgman, Mich., (one two-week period)—97.

The 1961 total of 1,266 campers may be compared with 254 campers in 1958, 677 in 1959, and 881 in 1960.

Photo Credits—Photos by Frank C. Zak are on pages 1, 3 (lower right) and 4. Photo by Fabian, Park Ridge, on page 3, upper left.

The Society will soon mail its annual appeal for funds to support its greatly expanded inner city programs. The coupon below may be used for sending a contribution to these general programs.

Mail to: Chicago City Missionary Society
19 S. La Salle St., Room 1302
Chicago 3, Illinois

I enclose $_____ to be used for the Society's inner city programs.

Name_____

Street_____

City_____ Zone____

State_____

Church_____